

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of separating adhered metal particle matter from a surface of a conductive vehicle or vehicle part substrate comprising:

immersing the vehicle or vehicle part substrate surface having adhered metal particle matter in an electrolyte medium comprising a non-aggressive acid or base;

producing gaseous hydrogen by electrolyzing water of the electrolyte medium in contact with said surface of said vehicle or vehicle part substrate, dislodging said adhered metal particle matter by force of said evolved hydrogen to clean said surface, wherein said electrolyzing is at a current density of less than one amp per square decimeter (A/dm²) and wherein said conductive substrate constitutes a cathode;

transporting said dislodged metal particle matter from a vicinity of said surface; and

applying a coating to said cleaned surface.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said electrolyzing is conducted at a voltage greater than the electrolysis voltage of water.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said dislodged matter is transported from a vicinity of said surface by flow of electrolyte via an eductor.

4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transporting of dislodged metal particle matter is conducted by the electrolyte medium, which entrains said dislodged metal particle matter.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said transporting comprises movement of at least one of said surface and said electrolyte medium relative to one another.

7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein said electrolyte medium moves.

8. (original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said substrate moves.

9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said electrolyte medium has a density sufficient to entrain said dislodged metal particle matter.

10. (cancelled)

11. (original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the voltage is at least 2 volts.

12. (original) The method of Claim 2, wherein voltage is at least 5 volts.

13. (original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the voltage is up to about 20 volts.

14. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the electrolyte medium comprises a basic electrolyte.

15. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the electrolyte medium comprises an acidic electrolyte.

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the electrolyte medium comprises sodium carbonate in an amount of about 20 to about 30 grams per liter of electrolyte medium.

17. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pH of the electrolyte medium is in a range of about 3 to 13.

18. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the electrolyte medium comprises trisodium phosphate.

19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) The method of Claim 19 1, wherein said current density is in a range of about 0.1 to about 0.3 A/dm².

Claims 21-29. (cancelled)